



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

“Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you had everything to do, and you've done it.”

~ Margaret Thatcher

Friday, May 2, 2008

Research and Planning staff introduced the Department's recidivism rate for 2007 at the Agency Leadership Symposium held at CTI. In 2007, recidivism rates decreased for the second consecutive year, resulting in 37.8% of offenders being recommitted to the IDOC within three years of their release date. To obtain the full report, contact Aaron Garner at agarner@idoc.in.gov.

Officers Shaun Glover and Nikki Reed from Reception Diagnostic Center recently went above and beyond the call of duty and displayed heroism when they discovered a house fire near the facility. The officers searched the home for any occupants, called 911, and waited until the fire department arrived.

Madison Correctional Facility recently hosted their second Freedom 101 presentation. The sessions, which addressed the thinking-feeling-behavior model on responsibility, intention, forgiveness, and goal-setting, were presented for the PLUS unit.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted their inaugural PREP relationship enhancement weekend where 26 couples participated. Offenders from the PLUS unit, as well as staff from the facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, and Central Office, assisted in making the weekend a great success.

9 offenders from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a program offered by HillCrest Organization of Delaware County. HillCrest coaches offenders to prepare them for job interviews and find gainful employment.

The Indiana Women's Prison recently held a Community Advisory Board meeting where IWP's accomplishments and goals were discussed. Board members brought many potential donations for the new Wee One's Nursery and Family Preservation Center.

Offenders from Madison Correctional Facility renovated rooms in the Veteran's Affairs Office in Madison. Materials were purchased by the American Legion, and the offenders replaced the ceiling, put up drywall, replaced flooring, and painted.

Branchville Correctional Facility recently hosted its annual Sexual Assault Awareness seminar. Offenders in the PLUS unit decorated handkerchiefs denouncing attacks on women and presented them to employees of Crisis Connection, a local victim assistance agency.

Faculty from Miami University (Ohio) traveled to Plainfield Correctional Facility for a first-hand glimpse of the newly implemented SOCAP program. Professors toured the facility and interviewed staff to gain insights they may pass on to their criminal justice students to address the increasing sex offender population in corrections.

Cindi Troutman, a member of the Indiana State Prison staff, was elected Post Commander for the VFW in Michigan City. She is the first female in the history of Post No. 2536 to be elected to that position in the 76-year history of the organization. Ms. Troutman is an 18-year veteran and served in Operation Desert Storm.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility recently welcomed staff from the Office of the Mayor for the City of Indianapolis to tour the facility. Director of the Front Porch Alliance, Douglas Hairston, and Director of Re-entry, Khadijah Muhammad, met with PREF staff and spoke with soon-to-be-released residents about their re-entry.

The Indiana Women's Prison PLUS, Community Outreach, and Sheltered Workshop Program staff and offenders crocheted 130 small bags with the insignia of the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) for the Women's CMA Conference. There were also 4 flags and 26 centerpieces made for the Correctional Training Institute.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held a volunteer recognition dinner, where offenders in the "Future Soldiers" Unit sang military songs, C7 offenders acted out a poem, culinary arts students served food, and art students had their pictures on the walls and origami flowers decorating the tables.